Missionaries engaged in conversions

2390. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of missionaries coming and engaging in religious conversions in the disguise of service to poor in the recent past;

(b) if so, the action taken against these foreigners during the last one year; and

(c) whether any press report has come to the notice of the Government that foreigners engaged in conversions had to return to their own country after strong objections from the local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) There have been press reports appearing from time to time regarding allegations that foreign missionaries are engaging themselves in religious conversions by offering inducements and/or objections raised by local people against such alleged activities.

'Public Order' and 'Police' are the State subjects as per the Constitution of India and hence prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes are primarily the concerns of the State Government/ UT Administrations. Action is taken as per existing laws by the law enforcing agencies whenever instances of violation come to notice.

Some State Governments have enacted laws providing for prohibition of coversion from one religious faith to any other religious faith by use of force or inducement or by fraudulent means etc.

Unsafe structures in Delhi

2391. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the unsafe structures facing fire hazards in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of preventive steps being taken to keep check on construction materials and structural safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A survey was conducted at the time of enactment of the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 wherein 220 buildings were identified which lacked the requisite fire protection measures. Subsequently, fire safety equipments were installed in 217 of these buildings. Of the remaining three, one was sealed and electricity and water supply of the remaining two were disconnected.

Another survey was conducted by the Chief Fire Officer in pursuance of order passed by the High Court of Delhi on 23rd August, 2004 in CM No. 6904/2004 in CWP No. 2710 of 1998 titled Dr. B.L. Wadhera *Vs.* Government of NCT of Delhi and others, wherein 2506 buildings constructed after 1983 in Lal Dora, Extended Lal Dora and Non-Lal Dora areas were identified lacking the necessary fire protection arrangements. The owners of these buildings were advised through notices published in newspapers on 17th/18th September, 2004 to install fire safety measures in these buildings within 90 days.

(d) As per the provisions of the Delhi Building Bye-Laws, 1983, it is mandatory to obtain 'clearance' from the Delhi Fire Service for construction and No Objection Certificate (NOC) for occupancy in respect of the following types of buildings:

(i) All buildings having height of 15 metres and more; and

(ii) Buildings of less than 15 metres housing assembly, institutions, industries, storage and hospitals.

At the time of sanction of building plans, a structural safety certificate from the Structural Engineer is obtained as per the amendment made in Building Bye-Laws *vide* Notification dated 21st March, 2001. This includes construction materials. At the time of grant of occupancy certificate, a certificate is also obtained from the owner, duly signed by Architect and Structural Engineer, certifying that construction is as per relevant Indian Standard code.